

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 17: April 23 — April 29



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa slightly increased during Week 17, and the Community Level remains Low: Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines, [get tested](#) if symptomatic, and wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 (if you choose to wear one).

****NEW**** On April 19, 2023, the CDC issued a [media statement](#) focusing on simplifying COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. The following changes, supported by the ACIP, include:

- ◆ Additional updated (bivalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses for adults aged 65+ and immunocompromised individuals are allowed at discretion of healthcare providers,
- ◆ Original (monovalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer recommended for use in the US,
- ◆ Everyone aged 6+ is recommended to receive an updated (bivalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of previous monovalent primary series completion,
- ◆ No action is needed if updated (bivalent) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine has been received unless individual is 65+ or immunocompromised.

Please visit the [media statement](#) for information regarding vaccination of young children and alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa slightly increased for Week 17, and remains in line with the normal average for this period, although elevated (current level: 2.90%; normal average: 2.0%). Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

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COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 17 Community Level

COVID-19 Community Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population (Past 7 Days)	% Staffed Beds with COVID-19 Patients (Past 7 Days)
LOW	2.4	0.6%

PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Week 17 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
MODERATE	17.6	7.6%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: MODERATE

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

Community Level and Community Risk/Transmission Level are the color of the higher risk level for each of the two indicators. Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 17: April 23 - April 29

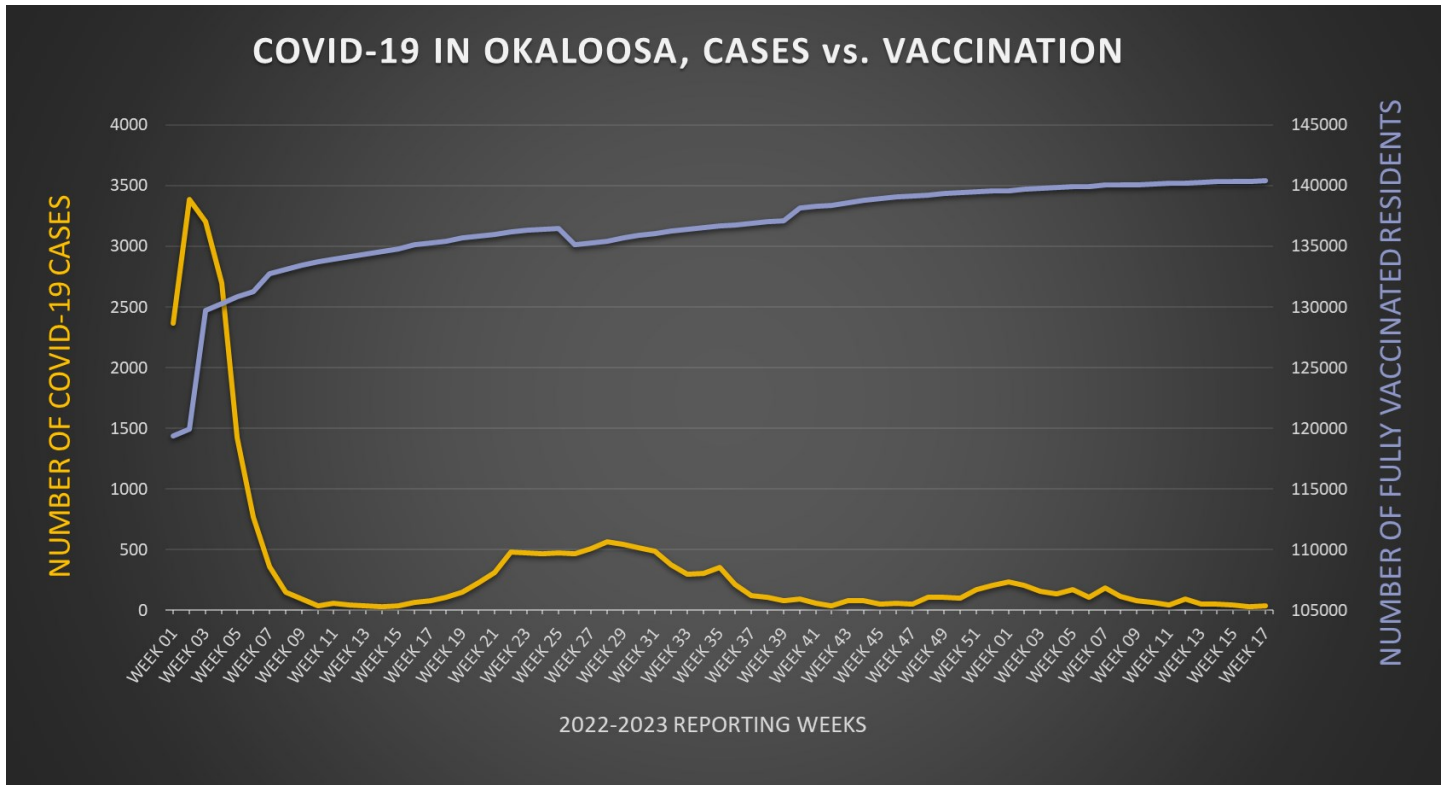


Figure 1: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 17 Review		Difference from Wk16
Resident Case Count	37	+8
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	17.6	+3.8
Average Resident Cases per Day	5.3	+1.2
Percent Positivity	7.6%	+0.6

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	71.2%	73.4%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	77.0%	77.6%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.8%	79.1%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.3%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 17: April 23 - April 29

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

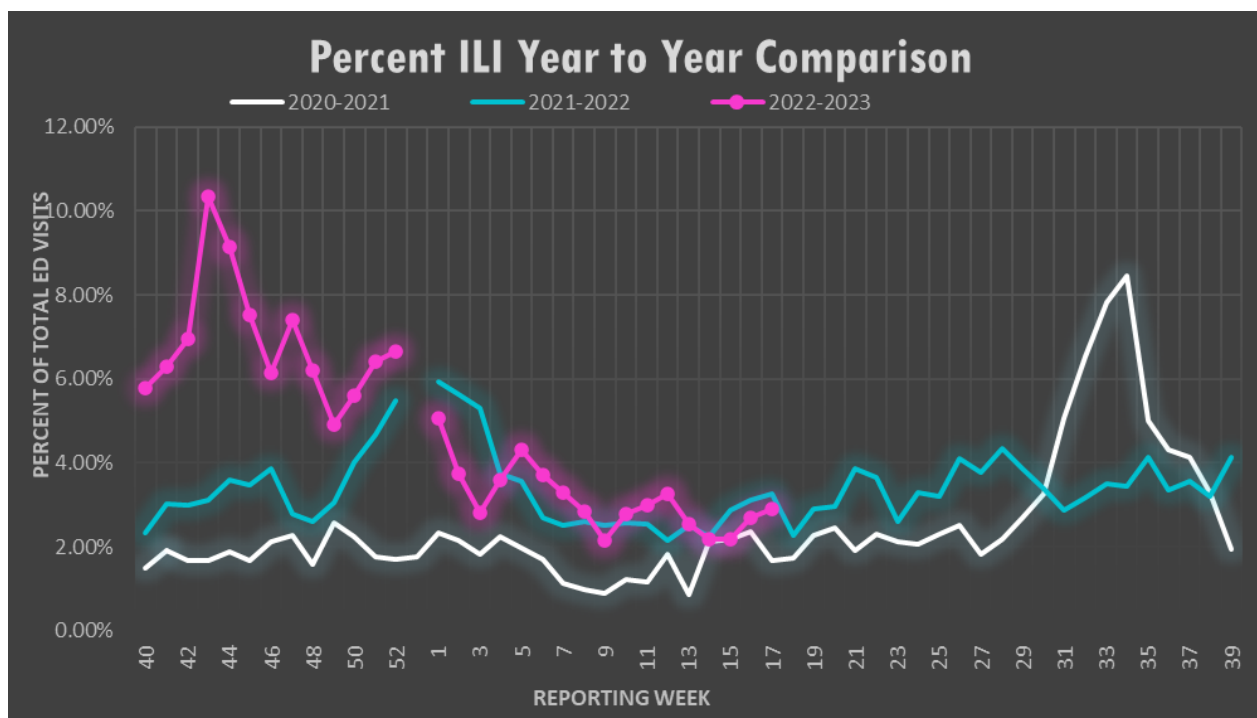


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 17, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported an increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County increased this week (2.70% during Week 16 to 2.90% during Week 17). Flu partners reported 3 positive rapid flu tests this week (1 Influenza A and 2 Influenza B). There have been no specimens submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 17 is lower than that of Week 17 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 17, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	30	207	14.49%
5-19	20	349	5.73%
20-34	10	540	1.85%
35-54	10	600	1.67%
55-74	2	565	0.35%
75+	2	285	0.70%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 17, 2023

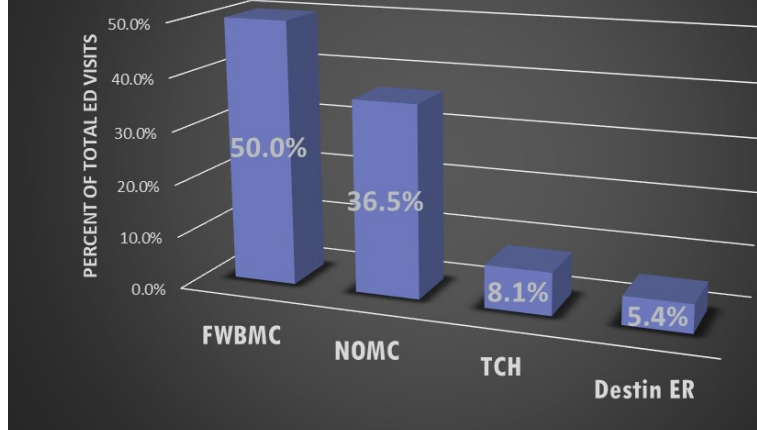


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=74). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

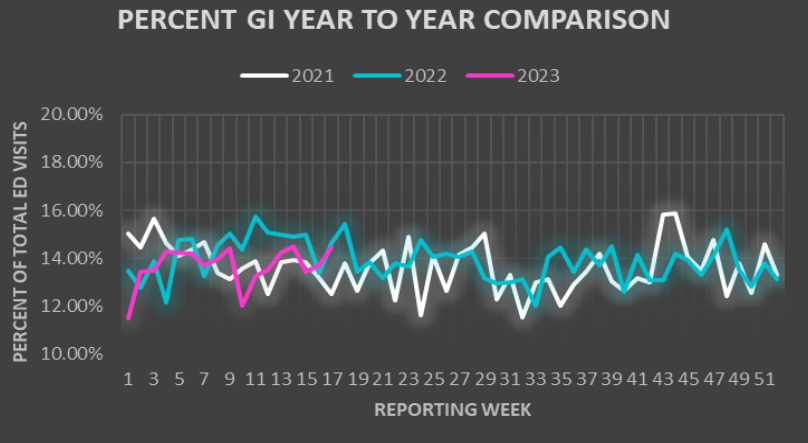
Week 17: April 23- April 29

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

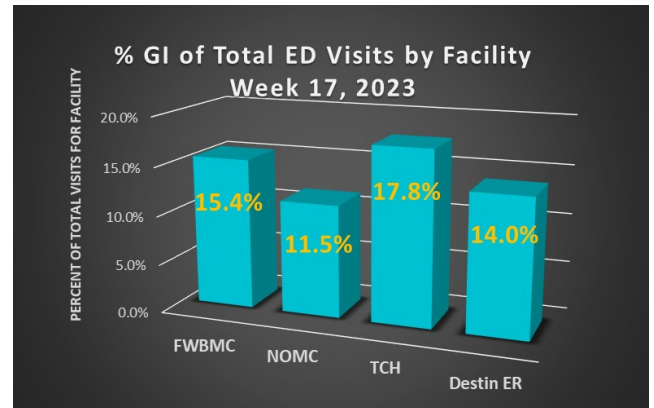


% GI by Age Group Week 17, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	25	207	12.08%
5-19	59	349	16.91%
20-34	88	540	16.30%
35-54	108	600	18.00%
55-74	58	565	10.27%
75+	30	285	10.53%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

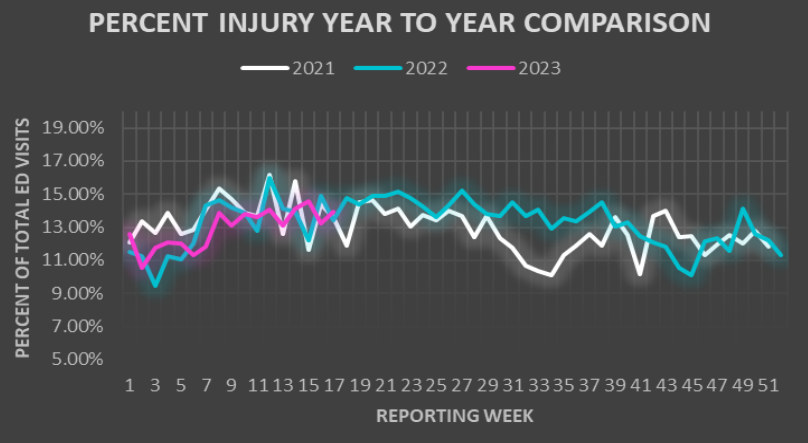


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

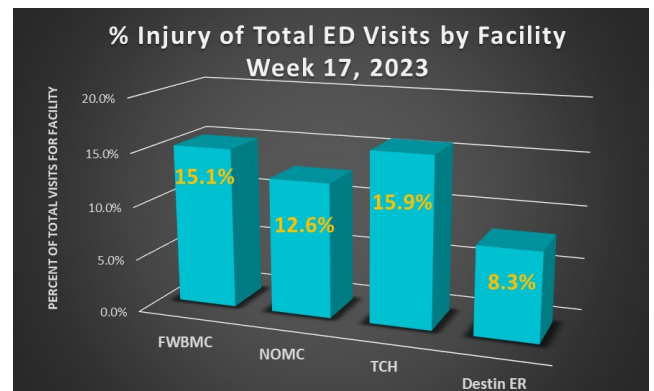


% Injury by Age Group Week 17, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	20	207	9.66%
5-19	54	349	15.47%
20-34	65	540	12.04%
35-54	79	600	13.17%
55-74	62	565	10.97%
75+	75	285	26.32%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 17: April 23 - April 29

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

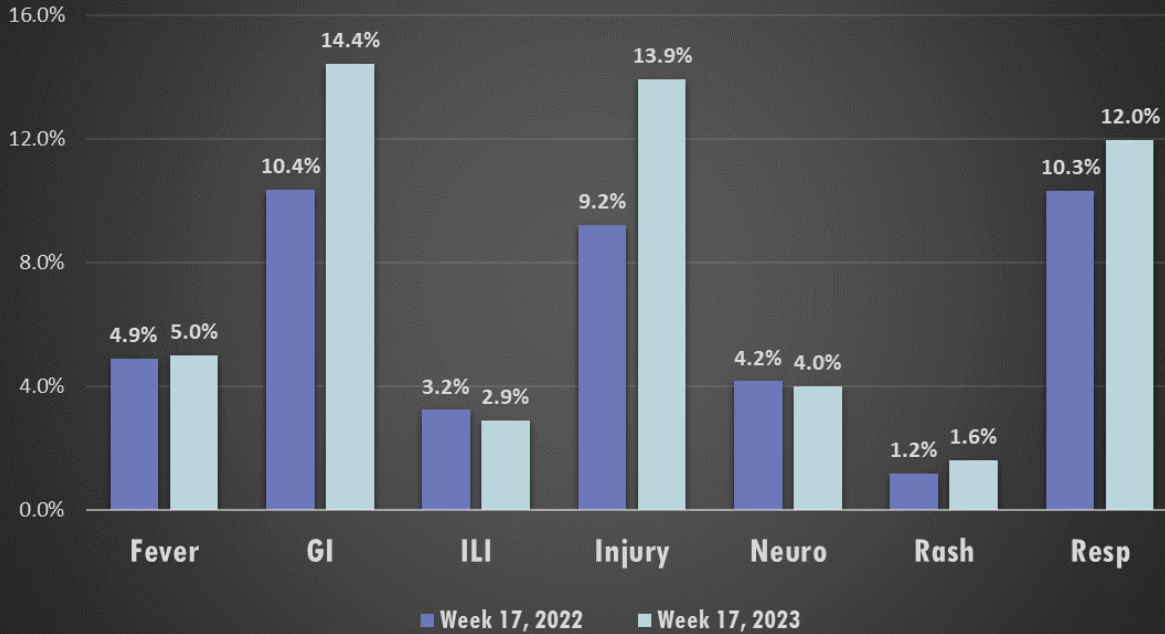
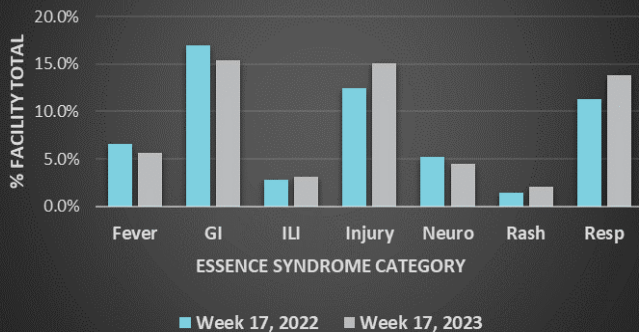


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 17 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2551). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

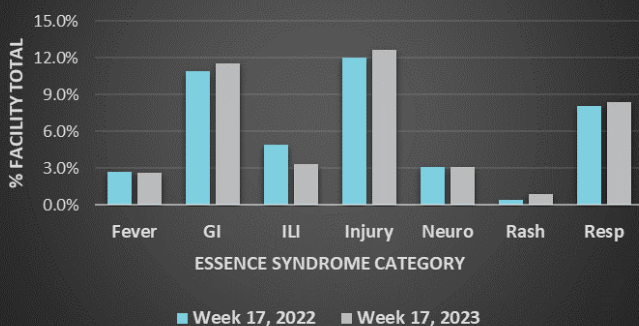
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 17- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	40
5-19	GI, INJURY, RESP	25, 25, 25
20-34	GI	51
35-54	GI	55
55-74	INJURY	28
75+	INJURY	38

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 17- North Okaloosa Medical Center

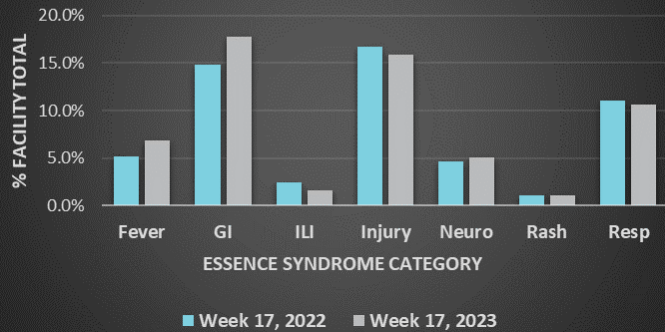
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	11
5-19	GI	21
20-34	GI	17
35-54	GI	19
55-74	INJURY	23
75+	INJURY	19



Syndromic Surveillance

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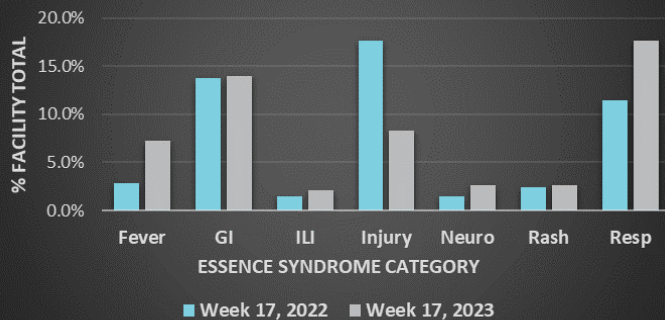
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 17- Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	INJURY	5
5-19	RESP	14
20-34	GI	16
35-54	GI	21
55-74	GI	12
75+	INJURY	15

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 17- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	6
5-19	RESP	6
20-34	GI, INJURY, RESP	4, 4, 4
35-54	GI	13
55-74	RESP	12
75+	INJURY	3

Week 17—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	RESP
5-19	GI
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE